

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Blessed are those who have regard for the weak. Psalm 41:1

Here are just some of the serving opportunities for Acts of Kindness month. For more options and details visit tlc.org/AOK. If you have questions contact Robin@tlc.org or **465-3381** or at the contact listed under each event.

APTOS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIFT BAGS

10/19 • 9-10am • Rm. 7106/7107 • Signup: tlc.org/aptosJH

Help assemble encouragement gift bags for school staff.

PROJECT PAJAMAS

10/19 - 9am-11am • TLC Lobby • Signup: tlc.org/pajamas

Sort, package and deliver NEW pajamas for infants to teens in transitional housing. Collecting NEW PJs from Oct. 1-17 ONLY in barrels in lobby. Questions: arijustice@yahoo.com

HYGIENE BAGS FOR HOMELESS

10/22 • 2-4 PM • Santa Cruz Main Library • Signup: tlc.org/hygiene

Work alongside Downtown Streets clients assembling personal hygiene bags for the homeless in the library's upstairs meeting room.

CLOTHES FOR JANUS

Only 10/19-31 • Barrels in TLC Lobby

Collecting NEW socks, underwear, & sweatpants for adult men and women clients in the mental health program at Janus. Do not drop off before or after these dates.

EMBRACE GRACE BABY GIFTS

Pick up tag 10/25-26 • TLC Lobby • Return by 11/1

Purchase pre-selected baby items for single, homeless pregnant women. If you want to help wrap presents: tlc.org/embracegrace. Questions: Rachel at embracegrace.rachael@gmail.com

CLOTHING FOR SALVATION ARMY SHELTER CLIENTS

Only 11/1-18 • Barrels in TLC Lobby

Collecting good, gently used shoes, pants, and shirts for children, women, and men who are housed at the Salvation Army. Do not drop off before or after these dates.

WATSONVILLE CONNECT

11/13 • 9:30am-3:30pm • Veterans Hall, Watsonville • Signup: tlc.org/phc

Help walk homeless clients around to various services or volunteer your services such as hair cutters, vets, eye doctors, etc. Registration opens mid-October.

CHASING DAVID

WEEK 4

FINDING POWER TO FORGIVE

1 SAMUEL 22 & 24

All verses from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-ge-di. So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David... Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave! "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the Lord is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" So David crept forward and... 1 Samuel 24:1-4a

How do I treat those who have harmed me?

(Jesus said) "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:44-45

Four lessons from David's treatment of Saul...

1. Show _____

- Merciful _____

David... cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe... David restrained his men and **did not let them kill Saul**. 1 Samuel 24:4b,7a

- Merciful _____

After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, David came out and shouted after him, "**My lord the king!**" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. 1 Samuel 24:7b-8

He said to his men, "The **Lord forbid** that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the **Lord's anointed one...**" 1 Samuel 24:6

God's _____, God's _____, God's _____

2. Speak _____

Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes **it isn’t true.**” 1 Samuel 24:9,10a

“Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn’t kill you. **This proves** that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though **you have been hunting for me** to kill me.” 1 Samuel 24:11

- Speak with _____
- Speak with _____ (see v. 14)
- Speak with _____

3. Stay _____

Then Saul went **home**, but David and his men went back to their **stronghold**. 1 Samuel 24:22b

4. See _____

• There is a bigger _____
“**May the LORD judge** between us. Perhaps the LORD will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you.”
1 Samuel 24:12

• There is a bigger _____
“He is my advocate, and **he will rescue** me from your power!”
1 Samuel 24:15b

• There is a bigger _____
(Written during this period in David’s life) But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love. Psalm 59:16a

Forgive as the Lord **forgave you**. Colossians 3:13b NIV

WHEN DEALING WITH A DIFFICULT PERSON...

Do I refuse to go along with the crowd in my attitude and actions toward this person?

Do I see this person as made in the image of God, just as I am?

Have I acted in gracious ways toward this person?

When I speak truth to this person, or about this situation, do I do so with humility and hope?

Do my actions and attitude toward this person reflect my confidence that God has a plan, and will ultimately make things right—even if I can’t?

Am I taking steps to stay safe and away from potential future harm by this person?

Is my imagination being captured by God’s beauty—or by the ways I’ve been wronged, fantasies of revenge, or fears of future harm?

Questions adapted from Gene A. Getz, David: Seeking God Faithfully, p. 124